CARRY NO BANNERS

$2.00 [US]
ISSUE #2

PRESSURE 28

INTERVIEWS WITH: BECK'S PISTOLS, SOS BOTE, PIST 'N' BROKE, CONDEMNED 84 & LOADS MORE. ALSO, NEWS, ARTICLES, RECORD & FANZINE REVIEWS.

Hello, and yes you are reading issue #2! It has been rough, mainly due to busy work schedules and other events. But, it's all finally come together. As for issue #1--- we ended up doing a decent job (according to your comments). As always any critcism is good since we're always looking to improve the zine. Issue #1 sold an outstanding 500-600 copies...not bad for a premier zine! But our personal criticisms of #1 are in regards to poor picture quality and Ray's various and numerous spelling errors. All of which are going to be corrected. This issue has a different format because we acquired a proper publishing program. We are still trying to learn the program, so bear with us.

A couple of changes in the content have also been introduced. Some by choice, some not. First off, we lack actual pictures of certain bands, this is beyond our control in that we can only use what a band sends. Hopefully as we grow, this will change. Second, there are more music reviews in this issue, mainly because the staff has acquired quite a bit of material over the past few months. Some reviews may have appeared in other zinez, but another perspective never hurts. Also, with the recent flood of re-releases and greatest hits CD's, we feel it to be a complete waste of time as well as space to review material people already know about. Some re-issues may be reviewed if they contain unreleased or special tracks. And finally, we have expanded our content to include mod music reviews. In up-coming issues we will conduct mod interviews. Why? Because of interest, availability and alot of new mod bands being excellent. We are also attempting to steer away from American ska for two reasons: A) The lack of response to our interviews by U.S. ska bands, and B) Too much mainstream college interest. This might be great for the actual bands, but a nightmare for real fans. There you have it! Thanx for all the support, and enjoy issue #2!!

STAFF:
Perry (fanzine & record reviews, interviews), Ray (record reviews & article), Justin (record reviews), A.C. (translator), Omi (editor & lay-out)

Perry's thanks to: Chris Formagine PIST & BROKE, Kev & CONDEMNED 84, Aaron & YESTERDAY'S HEROES, Cole PRESSURE 28, Willie of BECK'S PISTOLS, Thomas (SOS-Bote), Pete & Steve (Groove), Ray from Hawaii, (good luck with your zine), Tyler (Sonic Aggro), Riton (SPE), everyone who bought our first issue and everyone who buys this one, and to all my friends worldwide. Special thanks to my girlfriend A.C. for all the love and support. You're da best!
Ray's Thanks to: Pete & Steve of Groove Records (one of the last places to get decent music)Dizzy (Detour Records), Jeff (Too-hip gotta go) Morris, John (Vulture Rock), Chad of THE BITTERIST GRIN, Phil (no clever analogy), and most of all the iron lady of CNB: Omi.
Justin sends out a congratulations to Brian and Pam of Mephiskapheles on their wedding.

DISCLAIMER:
The views expressed by the interviews contained in this zine are not necessarily those of the staff.

Thanks again, The Staff.

CONTRIBUTORS:
We want you!! Send all letters, artwork, news, photos, etc. to our address.

PRICE:
$2.00 per issue (North America)
$3.00 per issue (Europe)
$4.00 per issue (Rest of the World)

P.O. BOX 6348
EVANSTON , IL
60204 U.S.A.

BULK RATES:
If you would like to sell CARRY NO BANNERS in your area you can order them from us for $1.00 per issue (U.S.) with a minimum order of 10 issues. Outside the U.S. write us for rates. Bands and record labels send releases for review. Fanzines---lets trade.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

GMM Records is compiling a new American Oi! sampler called "The U.S. of Oi! Volume 2." Some bands scheduled to appear are PIST & BROKE, STORMWATCH, ANTI-HEROES and several others.

As most of you already know, Ian Stuart of SKREWDRIVER was killed in a car crash on Sept. 24. Another passenger in the car was killed and 3 others were injured. As you can imagine, this has sent shock waves through the right wing of the skinhead cult. A tribute album is reportedly planned with several top Nationalist bands doing SKREWDRIVER covers.

Top French ska band SKARFACE have just released their second CD. Not sure of the title.

N.Y.C. Oi! band THE TEMPLARS are recording an LP/CD for Dim Records due out in the New Year. They also have a new address: THE TEMPLARS c/o Phil R., P.O. Box 602 Bayshore, NY 11706-0660 U.S.A.

The Oi! concert that was to take place in Oberndorf, Cermany on Sept. 12 with THE BUSINESS, BOOTS & BRACES, & THE ELITE was cancelled by the town council due to "massive danger to the public." What bullshit!!

A BECK'S PISTOLS concert in Germany on Sept. 9th was nearly cancelled as well due to noise. However, a good source who was at the gig told us the real problem was alot of young Turks who thought it was going to be a Nazi concert. After alot of discussion things were cleared up and BECK'S PISTOLS were allowed to play.

BOHSE ONKELS singer Kevin was attacked and beaten by a gang of Turks when he confronted them for throwing an object through his window. He plans to move from his hometown of Frankfurt because of problems he's had with immigrant gangs. The irony is that BOHSE ONKELS are no longer skinheads. They now play heavy metal and have publically denounced racism and fascism.

England's Helen of Oi! Records are planning to release a new 7in EP by CLOSE SHAVE in December.

Bohdan from UNITED FRONT has started a record label called Stay Press Reocrds.

A new American ska compilation called "American Skathic" should be out by the new year featuring both old and new bands from the Midwest. The album is being compiled by Chicago D.J. Chuck Wren. A record release gig is due to take place at The Metro in Chicago on Jan. 8th featuring 6 bands that appear on the album.

100 MEN were recently refused entry into the U.S.A. and fined by customs officials for attempting to "smuggle" T-shirts into the country. Funny thing was that the T-shirts had been declared. Still 100 MEN are set to tour Britain, Spain, Germany and Austria in Dec. with California skinhead outfit DURANGO 95 as the opening act. A mini tour of France is planned for Jan.

There's a new Oi! band in Atlanta called BRICKWALL UNITED.

Watch out for a new band from Pennsylvania called HOOLIGANS ON PARADE.

Vulturock (formerly Steve Priest Fan Club) has plans to release a new single by THE STAW DOGS, as well as a split EP with OXBLOOD and THE TEMPLARS. Look out for more Japanese stuff on this label as well.

L.A. Punk mainstays DI have released a new CD titled "Live At A Dive" on Triplex Records.

THE SKUNKS have their 2nd album called "Mixed Nuts" out soon on Moon Records. Also due out soon on Moon, the debut by Philly band RUDER THAN YOU and the long awaited 2nd album by THE SKOFFLAWS.

Punk legends THE EXPLOITED have a new video released by Visionary in the U.K. titled "Live in Japan." Watch out for a new album by them as well.

Dim Records have a Japanese Oi! compilation in the works. Not sure of a release date.

North Carolina Oi-sters PATRIOT will be releasing a full length CD on Sonic Aggression.

DESMOND DEKKER has a new LP out on Trojan called "King of Kings" Dekker teams up with former SPECIALS members Lynval Golding, Neville Staples, Horace Panter and Roddy Radiationon new versions of ska classics like "Jamaica Ska" and "Carry Go Bring Home."

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Send $1 For Our Mail Order Catalog

Milwaukee ska outfit THE INVADERS have a 14 song cassette now available for $9.00 ppd (U.S.) A CD release is in the works. They also have 2-sided T-shirts for $12.00 (XL only) and badges for $1.00. THE INVADERS: 3731 S. 56th St. Milwaukee, WI 53220 U.S.A.

SPE Records have a 7in EP called "American Oi!, American Pride" due out by the end of the year. The bands featured are THE TEMPLARS, OXBLOOD, STORMWATCH AND DEAD END BOYS. Also, Riton (who owns the label) has a new band called NOBODY'S HEROES.

Swedish Oi! band BULLSHIT have their debut LP out now on Nightmare / Knockout Records titled "United, The Voice of Oi!"

RED ALERT's long asaited U.S. tour probably won't happen util May 1994. They have decided to tour more in Europe and release a new album before heading over to the states. Phil from THE TEMPLARS & OXBLOOD is organizing the tourwhich will be a 4 band package including THE TEMPLARS, OXBLOOD & PIST-N-BROKE as support bands.

Rumours are flying about Sonic Aggression going out of business. Tyler told CNB that he's seriously considering packing it in because the label is losing money. His partner, Doug, may continue with help from Jeff (BRUISERS) but nothing is certain yet. Stay tuned.

Oi!'s TOP BEST 100

is being compiled by 'Helen Of *Oi*' RECORDS FOR FUTURE publication.

WHAT ARE YOUR *TOP 10 Oi!* SONGS? Give it some thought, then send your TOP *10* in.

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NOW

FANZINE REVIEWS

KRIMINAL KLASS #34 (Italian) Lokalmatadore, Rappresaglia, The Templars, Anti Patik, Step 1 Records, Dancehall Crashers, lots of record reviews...$3.00 to Marco Balestrino, C.P. 426 (Centrale) 17100, Savona, Italy

BRONCO BULLFROG #3 (English) Pressure 28, Ngobo Ngobo, Skapulario, Straw Dogs, Buck O Nine, loads of news, reviews...$3.00 to Mark Brown, Apartado De Correos 1474, 07800 Ibiza (Baleares), Spain

BRONCO BULLFROG SKINZINE
Ska Reggae Soul Punk Oi! fanzine.
Now available in the USA for only $4.
ORDERS: Postal Orders / Cash made payable to: Chuck Wren, 4409 1/2 Greenview #2w, Chicago, Il 60640 USA.
SUSCRIPTION: 4 issues for only $16.
Bands and record labels contact Headquarters address:
BRONCO BULLFROG ZINE, c/o Mark M. Brown, Apartado de Correos 1474, 07800 Ibiza (Baleares) SPAIN.
Fax +34 71 311064

MOLOKO PLUS #1 (German) Glossy cover, offset printed! Wretched Ones, Headwound, Niblick Henbane, Colombian scene report, Anti-Heroes, record reviews, gig reviews, news. Torten Ritzki, Ruhrstrasse 151, 5628 Heiligenhaus, Germany

UN MONSTRE EST EN MOI! #3 (French) Walzwerk Records, Blank Generation, Zundstoff, Toy Dolls, Oxblood, Warzone, The Business (article), Void Section, Los Pies Negros, Headwound, Die Lokalmatadore, Distorted Truth, Dead End Boys, news record reviews, contacts. 56 rue d'achy, 60690 Lo Neuville / Oudevil, France

SKINHEAD TIMES #11 (English) The Business, Cockney Rejects, Toasters, Boisterous, Too Hot. Tons of news, reviews, classifieds, adds, etc. Mandatory reading for every skinhead! $2.00 to S.T. Publishing, P.O. Box 12, Dunoon, Argyll, PA23 7BQ, Scotland

TIGHTEN UP #12 (English) Eskago, Bitter Grin, Bovver Boys, Skunks, Ngobo Ngobo, SPFC, Poetry, reviews, news, etc. 1 Shah Place, Ramsgate, Kent, CT11 7Qd, England

SEARCHING FOR SKA #12 (English) Free newsletter of the ska show on WNUR. Lot's of ska news. Free. Outside of U.S. send IRC to Chuck Wren, 4409 1/2 Greenview #2w, Chicago, IL 60640, USA

SOS-BOTE #17 (German) Free Fanzine published every 6 weeks! Lots of news, reviews, concert dates, adds...They also run a mailorder service with records, videos, etc. 2 IRCs to SOS-Bote, Scheffolde & Pusch GdbR, Postfach 2211, 88012 Friedrichshafen, Germany

THAT'S LIFE #1 (English) One Night Stand, The Trojans, Oi Polloi, Erase Today, Back to the Planet, lots of reviews, etc. Well done zine, only complaint is they say Carry No Banners leans to the right--Which we don't. P.O. Box 276, Derby DE1 9RU, England

PURE IMPACT #17 (English) Featuring Zundstoff, Veme Colonne, Pressure 28, Jack the Lad, Virus 27, S.P.E. Records, V Imperio, Triebtater. Lots of news, record reviews and more. $3.00 to Peter Swillen, M.V. Hongarijelaan 135, 1080 Brussels, Belgium.

ZERA #15 (French) Action Dissidente, Mistreat, Skingirl, Force Majeure Records, Neglect, Oi Polloi, Asociale, Viking, Anti-Heroes, concert reviews, football news, reader charts, zine & record reviews--the works! B.P. 239, 76003 Roven Cedex, France.

A Way Of Life
Oi! N' Ska Zine
A Way Of Life is looking for Oi! and Ska bands for possible interviews. Send some type of recording (Vinyl, CD, Cassette, Demo) and pictures for reviews also. Skinheads, Rudies, send scene reports, pictures, show or scooter rally reviews, drawings, etc. Free brief ads or personals. Distributors also needed worldwide.
Write for more info to:
A Way Of Life
c/o Ray B.
2857 Kuikele Pl.
Honolulu, HI 96819
U.S.A.

S.O.S. BOTE

Scheffold & Pusch GdbR
Postfach 2211
88012 Friedrichshafen
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(07541) 44526

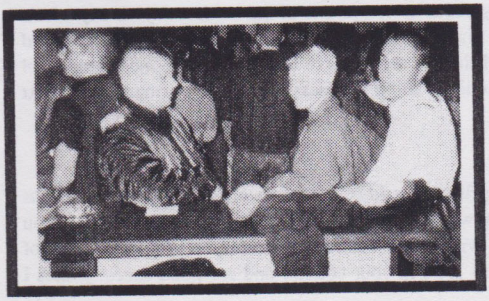
One of the first decisions we made when we started Carry No Banners was that we would not only run features on bands but we would also give space to others working within the scene that don't get much coverage. We feel that the people that run record labels, promote shows, run mailorder services, produce fanzines, etc. are just as important to the scene as the people that actually make the music. Last issue, we ran a feature on John from Steve Priest Fan Club, this time around we bring you an interview with a German skin, Thomas, who along with his friend Markus, publish a zine called SOS-Bote. they also do a mailorder service with an extensive selection of records, videos, fanzines (including this one), and the like. Interview by Perry.

1) When and why did you decide to start SOS-Bote? How many issues have you done to date?
The idea of doing a Skinhead magazine is very old (about 7 years) but first only 2 friends of mine wanted to do the magazine. I always told them it would be too much work for us. But as I was the only lad with a computer or a typewriter they couldn't start the zine without me. So about 2 years went by with nothing happening. In January of 1989 I started to do the zine with one of the "inventors" of the zine and some other lads. The first 7 issues appeared irregularly and cost between 2-2,5 German marks. In October 1992, we started to print SOS-Bote regularly every 6 weeks and give it away free. Up to now we have done 17 issues. Issue 18 will appear on the 1st of December.

2) You recently changed the format of your zine and it's now free of charge. How do you manage that with postal costs, etc.?
It is correct that SOS-Bote is free but people still have to pay the postal costs. The costs of the printing and all costs around the zine are payed by the profit we make with our SOS-mailorder service. The mailorder service is the cheapest skinhead service in Germany but nevertheless we earn enough to pay SOS-Bote out of it. But that is all. We all have to work and do SOS-Bote zine and mailorder in our free time. I am sure you will understand that we have a lot of work.

3) How long have you been skinheads? What does skinhead mean to you?
I (Thomas) have been a Skinhead for about 7 years. I've been with Skinheads and have listened to the music for about 8 years. With Markus it is about the same.

4) How did the idea for the "I Love Skinheads" cigarette lighters come about?
I do not know exactly because it was Markus' idea. But I think it was used because in Germany you can get nearly everything (cigarette lighters, badges, stickers, cups, T-shirts, etc.) with the "I love....." emblem. So Markus thought it would be a good idea to show the



people that he likes Skinheads because no one loves them in Germany. It was really hard to find a factory to produce the lighters when this was done. But, the selling went very well. Up to now, we have sold 2000 cigarette lighters. At the moment, they are sold out but we already have plans to make some more as soon as there is money left to order them.

5) You also run a mailorder company with an extensive list of records and videos. Could you tell us more about that?
No, I cannot tell you much about it. Order SOS-Bote for an IRC and see the list itself. It is the cheapest in Germany and perhaps in the whole world. We are distributing a lot of Skinhead, Punk, and Ska stuff. Nearly all the new Oi!/Punk CDs are on sale for about $13. We also have self-made videos with bands like Klasse Kriminale, Agent Bulldogg, Boots & Braces, Springtoifel, Mr. Review, Maroon Town etc. on sale. All on VHS. So just order the list and see for yourself.

6) What are your occupations besides the zine?
I do not know what it is called in English. I am working as a seller in shop for workmen and Markus is working as a plumber. I hope this is nearly correct Emglish but if you do not understand it just believe me we are all workers and have to work hard for our money which we put into SOS-Bote again.

7) Are you all soccer (Football) fans? If so, what clubs do you support?
Yes, but we are not hooligans. Markus is a supporter of Bayern Munich. I am only a supporter of good games. As there is no 1st division team in our area we go to games in Ulm and Pfullendorf (3rd division) and of course to Vfb Friedrichshafen but not for the soccer (5th or 6th division) just for the fabulous pub where you can see the game as well.

8) What are your views on the rise of neo nazism in Germany during the past few years? What do you think the future holds for your country?
Yes, it is a problem in Germany but it is not a problem of the skinhead movement. Of course there are quite a lot of right wing skinheads too but they are getting fewer and fewer all the time. Only the media tells more and more about them. I do not know what to do but I am sure that it must be stopped---kill children and people just for another colour of the skin. I do not care about the meanings of other people as long as they tolerate other meanings and other people. I think the whole problem is too big to talk about in my English.

9) What sort of impact has all the right-wing violence had on the skinhead cult?
It gets harder for skinheads on the street every day. Not especially in Friedrichshafen (here there's no right wing violence at all and it is only a small town, 50,000 people) but in the bigger cities. It makes a lot of young right wing people cut their hair and a lot of good people stop being skinheads. But all in all I also think it will show which people really think that skinhead is a way of life. The young right wing people grow their hair mostly about half a year later again. It is only a fashion to them and it doesn't matter how they dress they will never be skinheads.

10) We've heard that it is really dangerous on the streets for skinheads in some German cities. Is there any truth to this?
Yes, the most awful thing about it is that if foreign or left wing criminals attack Skinheads because they think they are neo nazis the media doesn't write about it and thinks it is okay (also a lot of the normal people). They do not care if it is really a neo nazi. It is a skinhead and that is enough for them. But if the Skinhead fights back (against the left or the foreign) it was a neo nazi of course. I could tell you alot of stories about that but I haven't got the time to do it. Believe me that a skinhead without a Sharp badge can not be a friend of a Turk here. Perhaps it is possible in pubs with only one or two but not if you meet 10 or 20 (especially of the younger) on the steet. They believe everything the media tells them.

11) How do you feel about the Business/Boot & Braces gig being cancelled by the German authorities because of "danger to the public"? Bullshit or what?!
It is really big bullshit! I do not know what to say about it. It was one of the saddest days in my whole skinhead life when the concert was cancelled. It was only about 50 km away from my hometown and everything was already planned for the concert. I think it would have been one of the most successful concerts in the last few years. Again, there are rumours about Business playing in Germany early next year, but I know nothing in detail up to now.

12) Any last comments?
Greetings to all the USA skinheads and skinhead girls. It would be great to hear from you. Our contacts to the USA are not as good as they should be by now. So, I hope to get better contacts this way. If you want to order good European skinhead stuff just write to us with an IRC and you will get a copy of SOS-Bote at once. Go to the soccer championship 1994 in your country and see good soccer games I hope Germany will be winning!

BECK'S PISTOLS

1) Could you please tell us your current lineup? Brief band history?
Our current lineup is: Willi Wucher (vocals), Stephen Leinen (bass), Michel Toenges (guitar), Collaps Strauch (drums). This was the lineup for last the 2 years, too. Before that, BP had several lineup changes due to its long existence (BP was founded in 1978). Willi is the only original member left, the rest of the first incarnation is either dead (one of 'em) or married with children and subsequently out of the scene. Stephen and me joined Willi back in 1989 for recording 2 tracks for an oi/punk-compilation called "TOLLSCHOCK". This was released by the singer of the band DAILY TERROR from Braunschweig/Germany who knew Willi for a long time and asked him if he could get BP together again for this project. When Stephen & me (and 2 other guys) played a gig in Duisburg with our band LOKALMATADORE, Willi asked us if we would do it, just for fun and as a one off thing. We said yes, wrote the 2 songs, recruited drummer Siggi and BP was at it again. Most people seemed to be quite happy with those tracks, so we decided to make it an on-going affair. Latter Siggi left us to join a hardcore-band called HALLRAKER (break-as -often-and-complicated-as-you-can-core) and now we think he's a complete asshole. The album"Pobel und Gesocks", however was still recorded with Siggi on drums. It was released ca. 1991. In this year we got our new drummer and 3 weeks later we recorded our 7" EP "Lockruf der Wildnis" ("Call of the Wild" , remember Jack London??). Our drummer was Collaps. 1992 saw the release of another single, a split-7" together with LOKALMATADORE, called "Trabi Rainer". It dealt with the problems of Germany's re-unification.

2) Germany seems to have a decent Oi! scene with quite a few bands and some big festivals taking place. What are your opinions on the current state of the German scene & what do you think needs to be done to make it better?
The current state of our German scene couldn't be worse, actually! Since some so-called skinheads started to burn immigrant's homes, normal scene activities are close to impossible. No concerts, no fanzines, no whatsoever without investigations through police or distubance by left-wingers. But yes, we've got several good bands (SPRINGTOIFEL, LOKALMATADORE, ZUNDSTOFF, PUBLIC BOYS etc.) and sometimes they can even play gigs! I'd say there's a light at the end of the tunnel, it just has to get better....I think media should realize that not every skin is a nazi! And maybe short-haired Adolf-Hitler-supporters shall grow their hair as long as they can, so that hippies become the new "darlings" of the police!

3) How do you fell about the rise of Neo-Nazism in Germany? Are there alot of skinheads involved or is that just media hype?
It's still one of the top media subjects. when you watch TV, you see some long-haired guy and the reporter says: "Nazi skinheads attack foreignors." I'm sick of it really. It may well be that there's quite a number of skins involved in this sort of attacks and in nazi organizations in general. But I refuse to call those people SKINHEADS! A skinhead is a skinhead, not a politician!

4) Who are some of your influences? Fave bands?
I can only speak fo rmyself Nearly all old 80s Oi bands like Cocksparrer, Business, Red Alert, but also BUZZCOCKS, CHELSEA, RIVALS, PISTOLS. And more. We all like SLADE very much. But I think it's mostly punkrock, since BP started out as a punk-rock band. My favorite band at the moment is KLAMYDIA from Finland. Best Punkrock-band of the 90s.

5) What are some of your songs about?
Oh well, most of our songs deal with topics like violence, alcohol, sex. Street Life lyrics...

6) Most German skins I've had contact with are heavily into 2 things: Beer & Football (soccer). What are your favorite Beers & what Football Clubs do you support?
We're all heavily into drinking, our favorite brand of beer is KONIG PILSENER, brewed in

in Duisberg. The brewery is just around the corner from Willi's former flat. In Football terms we're divided in three sections: Willi is an MSV Diusberg supporter (currently #3 in div. 1) Stephan and me are SCHALKE 04 supporters (currently last and 18th of div.1) and Collaps is nt interested in football. He is more into reading hippie-books by Indian gurus....

7) Which gigs have been your most memorable (best and worst)?
That's an easy one: our best gig in from of a 750 people audience was in Russeina near Dresden. Very good atmosphere and all sorts of people in the crowd. (Skins, punks, normals) The worst was 2 years ago in Dusseldorf where there were riots and some young skinhead nearly died after being wounded with a knife. We stopped playing gigs for more than a year due to this incident.

8) What do you think of skinhead fanzines? Which ones are your favorites?
I read alot of skinhead fanzines and I know willi and Collaps do too. I personally like SOS-Bote, MOLOKO PLUS (although I liked its predecessor CLOCKWORK ORANGE much more) and SKINTONIC I recently received a zine from France called "Une monstre est en moi!" which looks great but is in French,unfortunately...Please sind me one of yours, will ya?

9) I know your singer publishes a skinzine. Could you tell us alittle about it?
It's not exactly a pure skinzine, it was started way back in the 70s as one of Germany's first punkrock-fanzines. It was called "UNGEWOOLT". Later, in the 80s, the name was changed to SCUMFUCK TRADITION, named after a GG Allin track of the same name. It is a 50% Punkrock, 50% skin/Oi-sine, but deals with other sorts of music, too.

10) What do you think about politial and ideological differences within the dkinhead movemet? Do you think that unity will ever be possible?
Stuff all politicians!! We are ot only non-political, we're anti-political! Those guys just fill their own pockets, that's all theyre interested in. It's a real pity that our vivid scene is so divided as a result of radical political views. One more reason to hate politics! Unity is impossible, let's face it. Sad but true.

11) What do you all do with yoursleves besides the band?
We're working, what else? Willi is a steelworker, Stephan is a social scientist (with diploma!) Collaps is ...hell, I don't know! and I', working in a savings bank. Stephan and me are stillplaying in LOKALMATADORE. So not much spare time left...

12) Any band merchandise for sale?
Yes, wuite alot. T-shirts, cassettes, a video, sweatshirts, buttons, stickers, etc. You may order those from Willi's address: W.W. Schmitz, Hunxer Str. 111,46537 Dinslaken, Germany.

13) Do many Punks go to Oi! gigs in Germany? How do you feel about Punk/Skin unity?
Yes, quite some. But it depends on what special gigs there are! Again a political problem. In our concerts we have a 50/50 audience.

14) What are your future plans?
We're going to record our 2nd album in Feb. 94. We've jsust issued a 7" compilation on our very own SCUMFUCK Records-Label. It's called "Arschlecken Rasur Vol.1" and features exclusive tracks by RUHRPOTTKANAKEN, ADAM & EVA and the SCUMFUCK ALLSTARS, LOKALMATADORE nad of course BECK'S PISTOLS. and, yes some gigs in Dec. and Jan.

15) Any closing comments?
Thank you for your interest in the band! Greetings to all skinheads USA that don't carry any fucking banners!! Listen to BECK'S PISTOLS and LOKALMATADORE and DIG IT!!

ALTERNATIVE TO WHAT?

If you feel like an outsider while looking through your local record store, pal let me say that you're not alone! Think back to the 80s when you could find a decent record, at a decent price. And decent bands were easily accepted. But then came the god-awful 90s---it's '94 and we've run out of time. What am I talking about? Here's an obvious example, remember seeing a punk in full leather with patches and badges that supported punk bands? Now the so-called punk, alternative, progressive, cyber-punk wears the same leather, but while biting the look supports the likes of Nine Inch Nails (or NIN for all you fashionable types), Smashing Pumpkins, Nirvana, Pearl Jam or whatever the fuck else. Then look at the so-called skinhead in baggy shorts, oversized everything else---is YO! replacing Oi!? The obvious question is what went wrong.

I'm not going to attempt to tackle the entire question, but only certain aspects of it. First off, the misrepresenting label of "alternative". Belonging to a subculture, one answers to a "title" they prescribe to themselves that coincides with the particular group with whom they assoiciate. A label is placed on an individual / group by an outside entity such as society: radio, record companies, music mags, etc. So for example, if I were a listener of punk, I might title myself as such. But in regards to alternative music, there is no title only an all-encompassing label. So what am I if I listen to alternative, an alternativist! could be, but what am I alternating from? This is the main question.

To save space, I'm gonna label music pertaining to the subculture we cover as SM (no sexual pun intended - Subculture Music). Let's start by asking, what is alternative? It seems to be a position that differs from an established foundation. In the late 70s / early 80s SM was considered an alternative, in that it offered choices other than those of the mainstream. But today, this so-called alternative music is the mainstream. These bands and their listeners are no different than any other radio zombie. It is also true that the "fans" are no more than listeners, who may sing the chorus (because it's easy to recognize, and easier to yell out while dancing) and attempt to imitate the style that can be acquired in a shopping mall, in order to "dress up" for the disco on the weekend. In contrast, followers of SM support their bands and make their music a lifestyle or a part of their life, not a weekend costume.

Alternative music depends on fashion trends, big record labels, and highly advertised marketing. It's whole core depends on acceptance by a majority or the current vogue fashion of the month. It could not survive from the do-it-yourself attitude of SM. It needs big business, for example take current television shows and comm-cials that have the "alternative look" and fashion mags that provide easy steps to achieve this label. Suggestions such as, "thrifting" or paying mall prices for a pair of shredded jeans. If you want a pair of ripped jeans, I'll tie you from my car bumper and drag you, that should do it. People that subscribe to alternative music are provided with their images as well as their vocabulary from the likes of MTV. MTV says the bands are good, and these are then the only bands that exist. No that's not true, these are the only bands that have money.

What alternative lacks is guts and sincerity. Anybody can be alternative, in fact simply buying the horrible clothes offered today provides the look. And that's all that seems important. I remember we used to call these types of people posers, but today it's alternative. Also, this week Nirvana's god while next week it's Pearl Jam and so on. And everybody claims to have been listening to these bands from the beginning. Beginning of what, their first video, first World Tour? Take another example, on the cover of "Time" Magazine some time ago they featured an article about Pearl Jam. On the cover it pictured the singer in a posed screaming position with a caption something to the effect of "music rebellion". What rebellion? These alternative bands are polite, controlled rebels; they only go as far as their record label allows. Then they put out videos with pseudo-intellectual imagery followed by "angry" lyrics. Punk /Oi didn't (still doesn't) need a boss. It does everything itself. While alternative bands talk tough on stage / videos, protest on TV and play multi-million dollar benefits Punk /Oi uses direct action through fanzines, independent labels and any other means of having a say. Sincerity, guts and fun are the driving force, not record sales and MTV.

Real music for real people seems to be SM's strength. Those involved such as you the reader, want more than what the radio and TV has to offer. You have the insight and intelligence to search, instead of accept. Although you may be out of step with fashion and not know a single song on the radio, at least you can boast about having listened to bands for more than a year! Also, the endless amount of re-issue material proves that there is still a desire. Even thought many independent punk labels have begun charging ridiculous prices for limited releases such as 12 British pounds ($20) for re-issues like "Strength Thru Oi!" and "United Skins" at least in some cases extra tracks and rare cuts are available, or two albums are on 1 CD. And, SM seems to be the last area that still puts out vinyl.

In my opinion, it all seems to come down to the very saddening fact that once our generation is dead and gone so is SM. Kids growing up today simply do not have all the music choices we did. Talking to younger people, I find myself becoming a relic. While recently listening to a Menace single, I flipped over the sleeve and read "recorded June 1977", over 17 years ago! But yet I still feel excitement when I play the 7 inch (even though I wasn't old enough to appreciate it in those days). When new re-issue CD's come out, I always tell Perry, "Yeah, it's cool that they re-released it". But whose buying it? Not young kids, but old dumb bastards like us that can't stand 90's pop so prefer to stay in the past! It's also a harried thought that kids today will never even own vinyl. CD's seem to support the plastic culture that accompanies the 90's.

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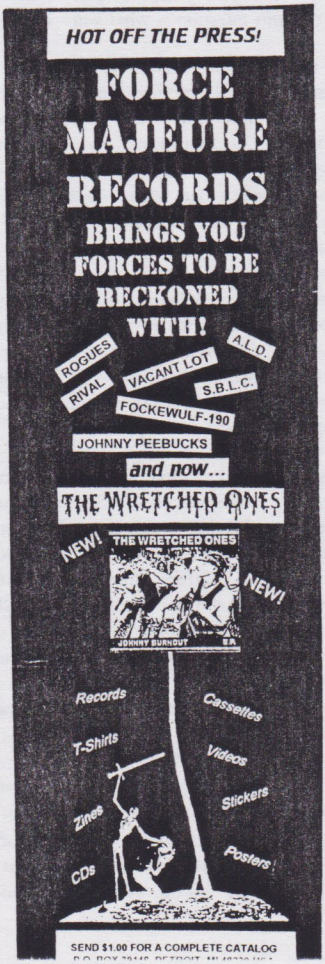
When you see the "alternative" section in your local record store, or hear a person say "Yeah, I like alternative music", I guess we can laugh to ourselves. We know the truth. The trendy student, Gap, wash-up hippie music may claim the airwaves and television but we don't have to listen. They can fool themselves into thinking how different and rebellious they are, but punk and Oi's already done it---the last valid music revolution of our time. And before punk and Oi, rockabilly was alternating from the mainstream back in the 50's, plenty more before that accomplished the same task. I don't need flashy clothes or a disco pose, I know who I am. I am (as Infa-Riot says) a kid of the 80's.

Forever loud, proud and Oi!
Ray



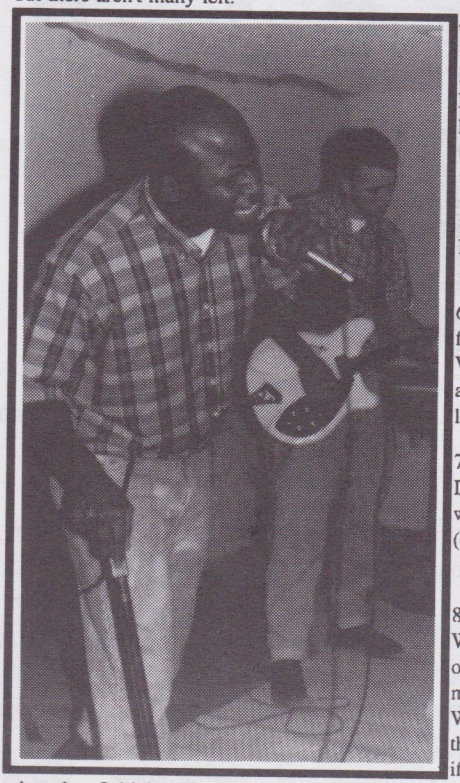
YESTERDAY'S HEROES

YESTERDAY'S HEROES are a new Oi! band from Las Vegas, Nevada. They are carrying the Oi! banner out west virtually on their own. They have an EP out now that should help them get some recognition ouside of their desert oasis. Guitarist Aaron was interviewed by Perry in October.

1) Who are the members of YESTERDAY'S HEROES?
I (Aaron) play guitar, Curtis is on vocals, Dave is our drummer and last, but not least Bill (or William) plays bass.

2) Would you please give us a brief history of the band?
Well, Bill and I had for the past 2 years been trying to form some form of skinhead bands. It originally was going to be a ska band, but there's already a million ska band out there and not many Oi! outfits on the West Coast. When we started playing harder-hitting stuff we were able to come together a little easier.

3) What is the state of the skinhead scene in your area?
The Vegas scene here is fucking lost! MTV dictates the latest cool fasions, bands, etc. Although if you grouped all the few Mods, Scooter Boys, Skins, it would probably number 50-60 and these are basically who we play for. Nobody else in Vegas would appreciate it. About 4 years ago the Nazi-faction was up to about 30. But they were Hard-Core skins. They didn't have a fucking clue. There used to be alot of violence between racists and those against it. There have been shootings, people shot, and shit like that. Nowadays, you might see one or two fresh-cut boneheads out & about, but there aren't many left.



4) Who are some of your favorite bands?
My musical tastes are pretty broad. Oi-wise I like Cockney Rejects alot, also old Skrewdriver, Last Resort, Infa-Riot, 4Skins, old Sham. I also like alot of early Jam.

5) What are some of your songs about?
Most of our songs are anti-police, anti-evil girl songs (but then again, all girls are evil--or at least Las Vegas girls), anti-media lies.

6) Do skinheads in Las Vegas get alot of hassle from the police and the general public?
Well, we got our share of bullshit. But, Curtis is an American-African so we get alot of confused looks. But, that's about it.

7) What are your hobbies / jobs besides the band?
Dave cooks, Curtis works on a loading dock, I work at a motel, Bill works at a store in the mall (what a queer).

8) You are the first Oi! band we've heard from the Western U.S. in quite some time. Are there any other Oi! bands out there that are worth mentioning?
Well rumor has it 40 or Threat is re-forming. If that is true, then that would be cool. I'm not sure if the Boot Boys are still together or not. Other than that, I think that's all the West Coast has to offer.

9) What types of people do you get showing up at your gigs?
A few Skins, Scooter Boys, Punkers, Average People--it's a wide range.

10) Are there many females involved in the Vegas scene?
There's not many skinbirds, but there's plenty of normal girls that hang around.

11) You seem to dress rather "smart." What types of clothes do you prefer? How do you feel about "skinheads" who dress like jocks or SS soldiers?
As you know, in the summer it gets about 120 degrees in this desert Hell Hole. So, you can't wear a tonic every day. Jeans, boots and a Ben are what most of us wear. If there's a show or something worth dressing for then out come the suits. When Nazis dress in army gear it seems to me their changing a youth cult into an army unit or something.

12) How do you feel about all the political factions within the skinhead movement?
Politics are like religions. If someone is brainwashed and completely has a closed mind when it comes to a certain belief, nothing can change their mind. I think skins should stick to the traditional values. Nowadays, you have nazi skins, commie skins, gay skins.

13) Do you have any band merchandise for sale?
Now that our 7 inch is out we are starting on T-shirts.

14) Any last words?
I would like to thank all those who still keep the faith. I would also like to thank those like yourself who provide good foundations to keep things afloat.

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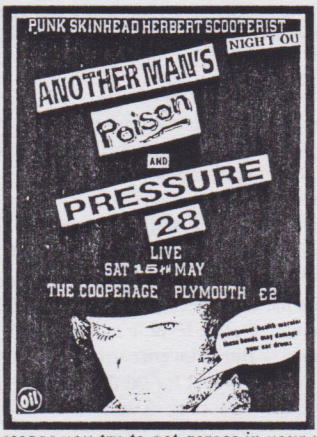
1) Could you please tell us who is in the band and give a brief history?

Kev 'talented Gough' on vocals and other strange noises, Jason 'rabbit skin knickers' Arnold on guitar, Colin 'the beak' Baker on bass and rhythmy bits, and last but not least on drums Nick Millington 'sexy basterd, 9 hour lover and hung like a dray horse' (Ed feel free to take the piss out of Nick at this point.) And the brief history is done a gig, done a record, is that brief enough.



2) Oi seems to be growing again in Britain with some good new bands, do you think this trend will continue? Have you noticed the audiences gettin bigger at Oi gigs?

Yeah, it's about time a few Oi bands started doing the rounds, there's lots of new record labels as well willing to put out the bands, it can only get better really cus' none of us are ready to throw in the towel for quite awhile yet. And yeah, I think the audiences are getting bigger as well.

3) Do you have a particular message you try to get across in your music?

We just want people to wake up and live in the real world, to start thinking for themsleves and not the sort of world they would like us to live in, alot of people seem to go around in a world of their own, they don't know the score and what's going on around them, also about being proud of the working class, we may get pissed around by the upper classes all the time and sneered at as if we're some kind of scum but would we have it any other way?

4) Who are some of your influences and favorite bands?

We ain't influenced by anyone--really just do the stuff and if we like it we keep it, favorite bands: Col - Last Resort, Business, 4Skins, Oppressed, Sparrer
Nick - anything
Kev - Sparrer, Another Man's Poison, Rejects, Blitz, etc.
Amy - Dolly Parton, Frank Sinatra, Abba, Popeye, Sinbad

5) What's the story behind the British TV special on homosexual skinheads?

Nah is there hell, do you get hippie poofters who think they're skinheads but hardly ever have anything to do with the scene, however as you know Nicky Crane has been on the telly admitting that he is homosexual, there have been rumors about him for some years, but if you listen to rumors you'll find that half the time it's a load of shit, at the time we just thought because of his involvement in the british movement and nationalist scene it was just the left wing probably smearing him. As for the program itself, I didn't actually watch it I can only go on what me mates have said about it. I don't think any of the others in the band saw it either, we were in the pub getting pissed rather than sitting at home watching programs about homosexuals.

6) Does the oi scene in England today still suffer from all the trouble in the early 80s (Southall, etc.)?

It's O.K., you get the odd fight wherever you are don't you, but we ain't had any major violence whenever we have played the odd ruck at the end of the night when everyone realizes they've gotta go home.

7) How do you feel about all the political divisions in the skinhead movement today, do you think more skins are getting fed up with politics?

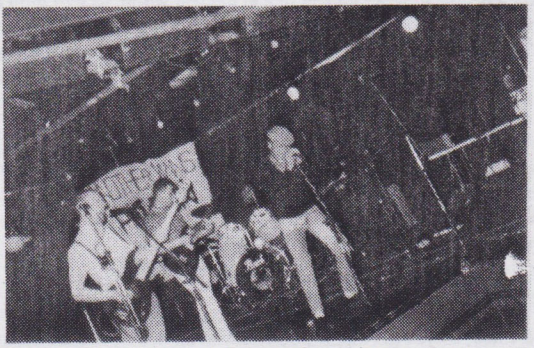
NICK - I haven't got any interest in politics really, so I don't pay any attention to it at all.
COL - I've not got anything against skins who are into right wing politics or for that matter the ones into left wing politics but the ones in the middle are getting tarred with a political brush, personally politics piss me off but if you believe in something you think is right, fair enough, who am I to say you're wrong? As for more skins getting fed up with politics I think you're right, there does seem to be more people moving out of the political divisions which in the long run can only be good for the scene.

KEV - Politics is just each individual's view on what's right or wrong or anything for that matter, people are entitled to think what they like so why suppress their politics it's up to them what they think is good and band, I've never met anyone with all the answers yet, I don't think politics are bad, cus' it's good that people are thinking for themsleves its just no one likes politics rammed down their throats and it definitely isn't the be all and end all of everything, all the gigs we've played so far the crowd know we ain't a political band so politics have been swapped for the pursuit of getting pissed and jumping around for the hour or so we're on. I don't know if some skinheads are getting fed up with politics at all but with the new Oi bands around flying a no politics banner alot of skinheads don't have to stand on ceremony.

8) What's your opinion of ska music and the Spirit of '69?

COL - I like ska music, I have done so since the two tone era but I think it's silly how some skins try to emulate the '69 skins and look down on skins who are into Oi! just because they don't wear the clothes that skinheads wore in '69, it ain't clothes you wear that matters or the type of music you listen to it's what's up top that really matters.

KEV - I like two tone, The Specials for instance, but I ain't a big fan of ska. I get bored listening to it. I prefer something a bit more injected but saying that I dislike thrash and metal more cus' they seem to lack a basic tune and it just sounds like a row, in my humble opinion two tone and Oi can be related to more by yer average skinhead on the street because we are around these days when it's happening and it's played by kids just like us on the same level, I suppose if we were around in '69 we would probably thought ska was The Business. But as I wern't around it doesn't have the same impact on me in the present, as for the Spirit of '69, if it wern't for skinheads doing what they were doing then we would all be into some other kind of fashion but I don't want to live as if it was still 1969 and everyone else being in 1993.



9) What are your occupatoins besides the band?

NICK - Arfur Daley wheeler dealer, ducking and diving etc.

COL - By day I sell timber and building materials within the building trade and by night I am a ruthless gangster who owns many nightclubs, gambling dens and whore houses & I also run a very profitable protection racket along the lines of the infamous Kray twins who in fact are both my surrogate fathers...

KEV - Because I am on the dole and have the whole day to myself I have built up a ring of women friends who I visit every day and they pay me for sex or any other sexual fantasies they wish to carry out. Amy is on the dole as well.

10) How do you feel about skinhead fanzines, which ones are your favorites?

NICK - Real World, Skinhead Times etc.

COL - Skinhead zines are fucking brilliant, if it weren't for all the hard work the editor put in there wouldn't be a scene to talk about. As for favorites any zine that goes out regularly is worth reading but the ones I read regularly are the Skinhead Times, Skinheads Don't Fear, Tighten Up, Welcome to the Real World and of course, Carry No Banners because its such an excellent read, jam packed full of information and interesting stuff (That's got to be worth a free subscription ain't it Perry?)

KEV - I have got favorite magazines but wouldn't like to say in case other zines editors got put out by me not liking theirs the best, they're all good though it's a shame sometimes I can't read any other languages cus' yer can only look at the pictures in the foreign mags...

11) Let's talk about skinhead style for a moment, what do you like to wear, how do you feel about skins with 20 hole boots, facial tattoos and the like?

COL - 8 hole docs, jeans, button downs, braces etc, but as I've said before it ain't what you wear that matters it's what you've got up top that matters. As for facial tattoos and 20 hole boots, I wouldn't dress like that myself but that's not to say that skins who do dress like that are any worse than skins who don't, we're all skins, we're all working class and that's what matters.

KEV - Fuckin' money tends to get in the way of what I wear and what I want to wear, but jeans, ox blood docs, button downs, Fred Perrys, but there all fucked cus' I've had most of them for years so I could do with some more gear really, I don't wear 20 hole docs but as Colin said it's up to people what sort of skinhead gear they wear. The odd tattoo on yer face looks good I think but not going over the top, but then again yer can't get rid of them can yer, looks well hard sometimes though.

12) Any band merchandise for sale?

Yeah, we got a demo tape with 4 songs on it the recording is a bit dodgy though, we got a single coming out with issue 11 of the Skinhead Times but it's only free to subscribers. We're on the one side and there's a ska band on the other side, also got two trax on the British Oi Working Class Anthems LP, and last but not least our debut single which will be out well before you read this interview, I think the Steve Priest Fan Club is doing the distribution in the states, but you should be able to get it through you usual dealers, but despite that we can flog you anything from cars to used suspenders, bits of belly button fluff, ear wax, mud, stones, send us your list of wants.

13) Future plans?

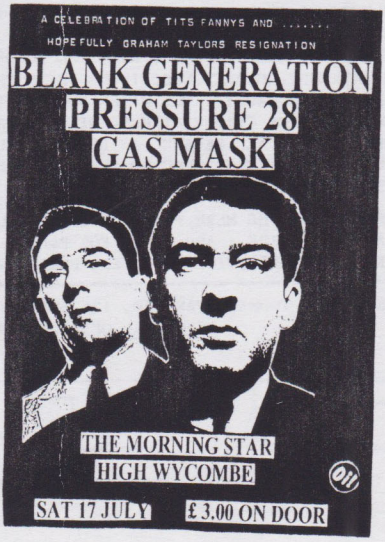
COL - To get a foothold in Europe and hopefully play some gigs over there so anyone who's reading this can afford to get us over to America or Europe let us know and we'll be over ther quicker than you can say "my crash hlemet is too tight and I have only two bags of cow shit left".

KEV - I'm gonna forget about the future and go out at the weekend and get totally arseholed shag some rich girl and live in luxury for the rest of my life.

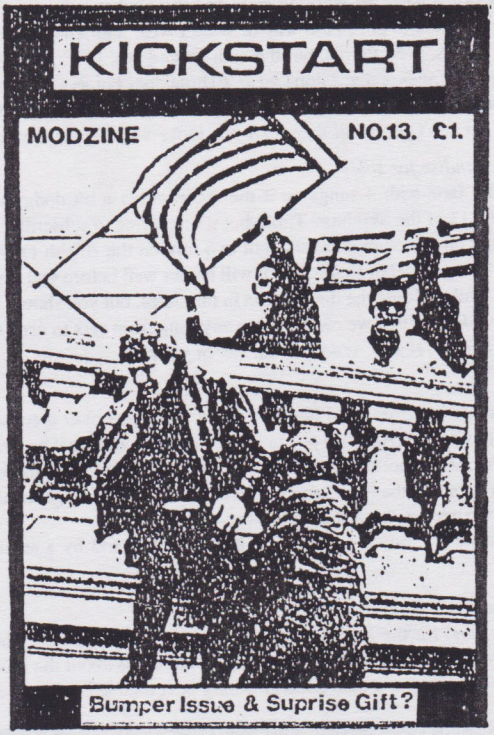
NICK - Fuck the music off, buy a Ford Sierra, have 2.2 kids and by a semi detached house in the suburbs.

Any closing comments?

A big cheers for the band for the interview, thanx Perry mate, see you all around no doubt, and buy the single when it's released (escapes), we were gonna take a piss about the football but we've just lost against her, hopeless eh, give yer a dam good thrashing next time lads, right then see yer for now kids.



MODS



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SOUNDS FROM THE STREETS

BITTER GRIN - CHRISTMAS DAY (WALZWERK)

A debut single from Canada's best oi! band. A spirited 7" that adds to anyones' yule tide festivities. Much in the same fun vain as the legendary "Bollocks to Christmas" ep. Bitter Grin are much improved from their earlier release demo. "Christmas Day" is musically tight and very well polished, it definitely delivers. The 7" has already sold 1,000 copies within its first three weeks of release. Bitter Grin are also planning to release a complete album sometime in June. There is also a move by old blue eyes himself, Frank Sinatra to try and buy the rights to the song "Christmas Day" so that it can appear on his next Christmas album. Rumor has it that Bitter Grin has been offered a six figure sum! More fun than any light bulb nosed reindeer can offer. (Ray)

BLANK GENERATION - ANOTHER VICTIM (HAMMER)

This is the second appearance on vinly by this young British band and this 7' shows quite an improvement over their tracks on "British Oi, Working Class Anthems". The heavier sound and tighter playing make all the difference. Fast punk in the early 80's "skunx" tradition. The title track is especially powerful and the lyrics advocate the hanging of child molesters. Fine by me. My only complaint is the Celtic Cross on the guitarist's instrument. Whats up with that? (Perry)

BRAINDANCE - STREETS OF VIOLENCE (HELEN OF OI!)

This new band consists of 3 punks and 1 skin. They play basic mid tempo punk that is reminiscent of early 80's bands like Abrasive Wheels or maybe Vice Squad. This record contains 3 songs that are quite simplistic both musically and lyrically but entertaining all the same. Nice fold-out sleeve with great photos of the band. Decent debut. (Perry)

BROKEN HEROES - JUMP FOR OI! (HEADACHE)

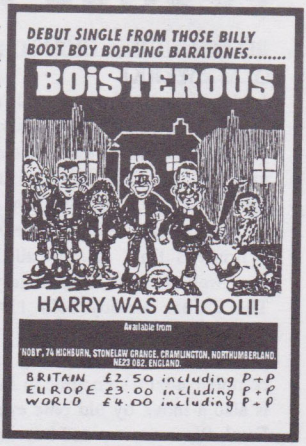
Broken heroes are a new band from New Jersey that like so many contemporary Oi bands suffer from a lack of originality. This record isn't bad {Yes it is (Ray)}, in fact "Jump for Oi' and "Labour Party" are actually pretty good. The problem is that theres nothing on here that I haven't heard a million times before. Still these guys show enough on here to hold well for future releases. It will be interesting to see how they develop. (Perry) C'mon on Perry, your being too nice, "Jump for Oi" what is that "Kris Kross" meets Oi? What next a Sprite commercial? This is total shit. Generic music to accompany generic lyrics. This is clearly seen in their song 'Labour Party'. First off when did America get a labor party? Don't tell me its the democrats. The only organization resembling any form of labor party are the American labor unions. The song is full of tongue-in-cheek lyrics filled with political cliches a' la "Rush Slimeball". And who is he? Another fat bastard money grubber. "My land", "Your land" go plant a fucking tree! And stuff your arm chair politics! (Ray)

THE BUZZ - SELF TITLED (DETOUR)

Another debut 7" from an up and coming mod band. And a good debut indeed. They seem to be heavily influenced by The Jam and Secret Affair. Both tracks are up beat and dancey. They even have some insightful lyrics. Overall this 7" is full of excitement, while in part dwelling on the serene. Interesting vocal techniques, at the same time maintaining intelligent form supported by great lyrics. A well-rounded release. I am awaiting their next release, this was an excellent appetizer. I'd by it again. (Ray)

BOISTEROUS - HARRY WAS A HOOLI! (HAMMER)

Great debut single by one of the U.K.'s best bands. High quality glossy sleeve with a hilarious cartoon drawing on the front and a good pic of the band on the back. As for the music; "Harry was a Hooli" is excellent powered by a killer bass line and a very catchy chorus. The flipside "He Died Young" is a fast oi sing-a-long that will have you bouncing off the walls. Highly recommended. (Perry)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BRITAIN £2.50 including P+P
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WORLD £4.00 including P+P

THE CLIQUE - EARLY DAYS (DETOUR)

Look no further this is it, the best seven inch of 1993! This being the first thing I have ever heard by the Clique, and this single makes me an instant fan. First off the sleeve is available in three different colors. It has a great resemblence to an old 60's picture sleeve. Already upon first glance, one knows they are in for "an experience". The 1st song "Ground Ginger" is a cool feeling instrumental, good late night cruising music. Next comes an all out modern attack; "Crying Day" (brilliant), "Leaving Here" (better still), and finally "Te-Ni-Nee-Ni-Nu' after recovering from this track I once again find myself saying brilliant. So what am I trying to say? Its glorious. More powerful than a multi-battery packed Energizer bunny! This 7" will leave you searching for words that are synonyms for brilliant. I can not urge one enough, buy it or forever be uncool. (Ray)

NIBLICK HENBANE - LAND OF THE BRAVE (HEADACHE)

Guess what? Another release from N.J. on Headache records. I guess if I lived in N.J. I'd have a headache also. This is Niblick Henbane's third release on Headache records. This new 7" (on clear vinyl) consisting of 4 songs; "Hoodlum", "America", "Life Over The Edge", and "Henry". It is also the return of their original singer, Harpo. I feel that their previous 7", "What's Your Deal" is a lot better, at least vocal wise. Not to say that "Land Of The Brave" isn't good, on the contrary it is an upright 7". The two songs "America" and "Henry" especially stand out. Good, catchy, fun oi. (Ray)

PIST-N-BROKE - CASSETTE (SONIC AGGRESSION)

Absolutely great tape by this Detroit area band. Six songs of catchy oi music with sax on two cuts. "Skinhead 4 Life" and "Ireland" are the two stand out cuts but all are great. These guys will be giving The Bruisers and The Anti-Heroes a run for their money. Great stuff! (Perry)

OXBLOOD - UNDER THE BOOT (HEADACHE)

Debut vinyl outing from this NYC band. Hard mean oi music that actually benefits from the primitive production. This sounds a lot like early Blitz or Agnostic Front's "United Blood" ep. Singer, Frank has got a great voice. Four songs, nothing that hasn't been done before but the added power pushes this to the front of the pack. Defiantly the best release on Headache. A potential classic! (Perry)

RARE 4 TRAX E.P. VOL 1 (MODERNIST MUSIC)

I'm not sure when this came out, but being sort of unique and quietly released it deserves the once over. The ep contains 4 trax (hence the name) by The Jam, Style Council, Bruce Foxton, and Paul Weller. What it is, is a rare or one off versions from the various bands. For example a track from The Paul Weller Movement covers an Isley Brother's song. Whereas the Jam song featured is a version of their cover "Heatwave" that includes guest vocals from Steve MacGowen of the Pogues. The ep also comes with a colorful picture cover of Weller complete with parka in front of a Union Jack. Interesting find that is well worth having. Available from Groove and Detour records. (Ray)

THOSE UNKNOWN - OI! KEEP ON GOING STRONG (HEADACHE)

Ray loved their 1st ep so maybe he should be reviewing this. I'm not too impressed with this record. The music is tight and fairly distinctive with a Stiff Little Fingers style punk sound. But the vocals are irritating and the guitars would benefit from a cleaner mix. Still if you liked their first record you should like this one also. If you like the comic strip "Andy Capp", you'll love the cover. (Perry) I'd have to agree with Perry about the music. My main criticism focuses on the stupid lyrics contained in their song "Hound and the Hare". I guess they needed an extra track to fill space. Juvenile lyrics written in a "gotta make each line rhyme" mannerism. The lyrical content is not necessarilly in bad taste, but rather just plain dumb. "Cocks down to our knees and we aren't gonna say please". More childish "mine's bigger than yours" pose. And I don't find rape to be funny!

TIN SOLDIERS - A NEW BEAT (DETOUR)

To begin with, hats off for the cover. Pictured next to their logo is none other than a classic shot of Diane Riggs a.k.a. "Emma Peel" of the Avengers. And the music in no way lets you down. A spectacular debut 7". A smooth mod sound reminiscent of the early 80's mod bands, but also drawing on their own sound. Their punchy sound leads the listener to quickly find themselves singing along. The 7" on clear vinyl has three tunes "A New Beat", "Girlfriend", and "Get Up And Go". The song :Girlfriend" bares a resemblance to music by The Chords. A great debut 7". A must for anybody that wants to add a new beat to their stale collection. (Ray)

VOX POP - COR BLIMEY (DETOUR)

Yet another splendid Detour release. Two songs, "Cor Blimey" and "Pretty Impossible". "Cor Blimey" being the more tranquil of the two, presents itself as a tight, smooth and cool-headed song. While at the same time side AA offers more of a solid garage sound. "Pretty Impossible" is by far the best track on this 7". A real atomic groovin' tune with almost ghost-like echoing backing vocals. I would have to say that this is another one of those must haves. (Ray)

YESTERDAYS HEROES - NO MAN'S LAND (SPARTAN)

This Las Vegas band is only the second oi outfit from the western U.S. to release a record. (YoungBlood a nationalist band from L.A. released an album on Rock O Rama in 1989) The ska influence on their demo tape reviewed last issue has given way to a pure oi sound. I think they released this too soon. The songs on here could benefit from the tighter playing that only comes with experience. These guys are capable of bigger and better things but they need to develop their sound. The cover is cool and the record is on red vinyl. (Perry)

THE BRUISERS - CRUISIN' FOR A BRUISIN' (PRIMITIVE)

What is this? One of America's best skin bands sporting greased hair, and pictured in a 54' Buick? What gives? What gives is the best material to date by The Bruisers. This CD will certainly turn a few heads, while running over those that remain. Fresh original tunes that pack more professional power than a 68' Cadillac. The CD marks a definite move from hardcore/oi to a more powerful sound heavily influenced by rockabilly. All that is needed is a rockin' stand up bass. Nine songs including a reworked version of "American Night" and an extra special cover of one of Buddy Holly's best songs. My favorite song on the CD is the track "Greed", a good finger snapping, foot tapping diddy dedicated to the working class. An all around sure on cool CD, that brings a ray of light to any summer time blues. If you claim to have any cool than this is a must. (Ray)

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SPE RECORDS/ BP 20/ 94251 GENTILLY/ CEDEX/ FRANCE

STEP 1/ P.O. BOX 201/ YALDING/ KENT/ ME18 6HF/ ENGLAND

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WALZWERK RECORDS/ FRIEDRICH LUDWIG STRASSE 17/ 74653 INGEL FINGEN/ GERMANY

CARRY ON SKA COMPLATION (STEP 1)

All of the 23 tracks on this CD appeared on either Link or its ska subsidiary, Skank records at one time or another. It's great to have them all together on one CD. It features mostly late 80's ska acts like The Riffs, The Hotknives, The Loafers, and Skin Deep with older cuts from Arthur Kay, Bad Manners, and Judge Dread thrown in for good measure. However, the best thing about this CD is that it features some ska cuts from old oi bands like The 4Skins, The Kicker Boys, and the ever excellent Case. Worth getting even if you have this stuff on other releases. (Perry)

CONFLICT - EMPLOYING ALL MEANS NECESSARY! (CLEOPATRA)

"Employing All Means", obviously means re-releasing old material onto a shiny 90's CD. this really is a different number to review. Conflict, being one of my favorite punk bands does not quite hit home with this release. Listening to them with out the "pops" and "cracks" that accompany vinyl doesn't seem to capture the Conflict that I am used to hearing. I guess one could look at this two ways 1) a complete cash in from a band that hasn't put anything out in a couple of years. Or 2) an attempt to blaze another trail by introducing their music and it's message to the audience of the 90's. Hopefully the latter is true, and we may even see a new release some time in the near future. Musically all the classics are here, "Increase the Pressure", "Tough Shit Micky", "Custom Rock", "The Ungovernable Force", and even the song that seems to cover every issue in one breathe, "The Guilt and The Glory". A total of 16 tracks complete with lyrics. If you already have the albums, you needn't bother with this, if not here's your chance. Great music. (Ray)

THE COVENTRY AUTOMATICS AKA THE SPECIALS - DAWNING OF A NEW ERA (RECEIVER)

Of course Specials fans have already bought this album and made their own judgements, but if you haven't my best suggestion would be to give a friend who has it a blank tape. It isn't something you'll be listening to next year. Many of the tracks here are early versions of Specials standards, and if you're sick of the versions you know, these are a refreshing change; however, the novelty soon wears off as the truth becomes evident---this, like the Special Beat, and the recently released Desmond Dekker and the Specials "Kings of Ska" album is another money-making scheme. Some of the songs are pretty good though, definitely worth the price of a high-quality Maxell blank cassette tape. (Justin)

MARCIA GRIFFITHS - PUT A LITTLE LOVE IN YOUR HEART (TROJAN)

This album includes Marcia's greatest hits from 1969 to 1974. Bob Andy helps out on many tracks. Of the 20 songs here, I have yet to find a bad one. "Put a Little love in Your Heart", "Young Gifted and Black", "Toil", "Private Number", "Band of Gold", "Pied Piper", and the list goes on. You just can't say much about Marcia Griffiths (and Bob Andy) that hasn't been said already. A good new release from Trojan. (Justin)

KLASSE KRIMINALE - THE HISTORY OF... PART 1 (NIGHTMARE/KNOCKOUT)

Yet another greatest hits album. Let's be open, everyone knows that Klasse Kriminale are one of the leading oi bands of today. In my opinion they may be the best. But it's too early for retirement, make a new album don't reissue old material. It really is starting to get annoying. Instead of putting together greatest hits complations why not make further greater hits? Any way, it is all here tracks from their first demo, the various 7"s, the LPs, and the compilations. And if you are a fan you already know it's all brilliant material. My advice save your money for their next studio release. (Ray)

THE MACC LADS - AN ORIFICE AND A GENITAL (HECTIC/DOJO)

The last two releases from the Macc Lads have been greatest hits comps, what gives? What next the official Macc Lads practice mistakes sessions? More songs about beer, women, sheep, and sex. Yes it is true that some of these songs such as "Brevil Brevil" and "Head Kicked In" have never been released, and it's true that some of the songs are different versions. But for fuck's sake, get out of the pub and back into the recording studios. (Ray)

THE MELODIANS - SWING AND DINE (HEARTBEAT)

Heartbeat is soon becoming my favorite record label. Not only are their releases cheaper than Trojan and rarer than Mango, the availability is great inside the U.S. In

case you don't have it, you can send for a catalogue at P.O. Box 154, Dept. HB, Cambridge, MA, 02140, USA . This release is great, capturing the Melodians rock steady to early reggae material, all pre-Leslie Kong, and under the production talents of Duke Reid for the Treasure Isle label and Sonia Pottinger for the High Note label. The best tracks include "Expo 67", "Swing and Dine", "Little Nut Tree", "No, No Lola" (my favorite), and "Daphne Walking". Good price, cool cover, well-researched liner notes, and irrepressible Melodians classics. Definitely a must for all rock steady and reggae fans. (Justin)

JOHNNY NASH - THE REGGAE COLLECTION (EPIC/LEGACY)

This is great! Nash's own "I Can See Clearly Now" (Alternate Version- faster, more reggae, less commercial pop), along with Nash versions of Bob Marley's "Nice Time", "Mellow Mood", and "Guava Jelly", plus a scorching reggae version of Sam Cooke's soul classic "Cupid". Even though a few bubble-gum pop songs invade this album, most of it is excellent. Epic chose a good time to release this album, when Jimmy Cliff is in the process of crucifying Nash's "I Can See Clearly Now" for the ridiculous Walt Disney movie about the Jamaican Olympic bobsled team, "Cool Runnings". Opt for the original. (Justin)

NGOBO NGOBO - RUDE FRUIT (HEATWAVE)

Debut CD from this German ska outfit featured in our first issue. There are a few decent tracks on here but a lot of the others suffer from a general blandness that's all too common in ska today. The cover is quite amusing and with 15 songs you get your money's worth. If you're already a fan of this band you should like this CD, otherwise I don't know. (Perry)

THE ONLY SPIRIT IS ...UNITY! (SPE/DIM)

A new comp brought about through the collective efforts of SPE and DIM records. This is an example of when someone wants to do a record, and for various reasons it takes a long time to get it out, and when it finally sees the light of day, the songs are all old news. If you are a newcomer to the oi scene these songs will seem brand new, but for the rest of us another day, another comp. If one was to make a tape of various songs they like, then one already owns this LP. I almost feel as if this LP is like one of those "Remember When" episodes that plagued the American TV show "Happy Days". Hey Fonzie remember that one song from Boisterous-"Oi Oi Having A Laugh", and what about "Ragnarok" by Ultima thule. Great songs, too bad we have to spend more money to hear them again. Other bands include; Those Unknown- "The Answer" (taken from their 2nd 7"), Stormwatch- "The 7th Power" (found on all their releases), Oxblood "Die Hards" (taken from their 7"), and various others. Some bands that do stand out are Cannons(Japan), Growl Strike(Japan), Klasse Kriminale, and the best track on the LP goes to the German band Rabuken for their song "Hooligans". The 1st 100 are on colored vinyl. Also the inner sleeve includes pictures and addresses of the bands. And a great pix of Cannon attempting to look angry--smile more boys!!! (Ray)

OI! THE NEW BREED (STEP 1)

This is the best release reviewed in this issue without a doubt and one of the best things to come out in ages. Boisterous, Argy Bargy, Another Man's Poison, and Pressure 28 each serve up 4 heaping helpings of top notch oi music. There is not a bad track on here and the stuff by P-28 and Argy Bargy especially rules. When Boisterous are the worst band on an oi comp you know it is good. Buy it. (Perry) Boisterous, good. great debut from Argy Bargy, but in regards to Another Man's Poison how many ways can one band try to sound like the Business? The best songs by far are by Pressure 28. The vocals in my opinion make the band. They are an interesting mixture that resembles early Boston hardcore, the Dead Kennedys and oddly enough a small band from NY called the Bug Out Society. Pressure 28 have really hit spot on with all four songs. I am very much looking forward to their album. (Ray)

SKAFERLATINE - EN PISTE (BIRD)

Good debut release by this French ska outfit. They belt 'em out at a variety of tempos; fast, medium, and slow. And it all works quite well. Sixteen songs so you sure get your money's worth. Not quite in the same league as Madness or Bad Manners but better than most 90's ska bands. Definitely worth a listen or two. (Perry)

SKATALITES - SKAVOOVEE (SHANACHIE)

The Skatalites deserve respect, but there are only three original members in the full-time line-up featured here. The new musicians are very talented, but they don't have the same style as the originals. The new breed is more

jazzy and flashy, and in my opinion, not as soulful, even though they may be better musicians than the originals. The songs are good and most of them are new tracks, but they are over-produced, at times leaving the listener wondering if Lloyd Knibbs is playing a drum machine. On the good side, it is affordable, and two New York rudies are on the cover. (Justin)

SKINHEAD REVOLT (TROJAN)

You've probably heard about this album already, but just in case you were considering not buying it, I'll add my own voice to the praises of this new Trojan release. First, you probably don't have most of the tracks on this album; (if you already did then chances are you're quite upset that the rest of the world has access to this great rare music). Second, every song is outstanding. Of course, some stand out more than others, especially "Skinhead Revolt" by Joe the Boss (maybe producer Joe Mansano), "Skinhead Speaks His Mind" by the Hot Rod All Stars, and "Shu Be Du" by Clancy Eccles which features the first use of the ever-popular "Fire Corner" rhythm. Easily the best purchase I've made all year. (Justin)

STORMWATCH - AT WAR WITH PEACE (DIM/UNDERSIEGE)

The long awaited debut album from one of America's most controversial bands. It's been released on vinyl by Dim and on CD and cassette by Undersiege. The packaging is great, a full color photo of the band with Red & Blue graphics. As for the music it contains eight new songs plus a new version of "Next Generation" from their demo and a cover of "Someone's Gonna Die" by Blitz. CD and cassettes also contain 4 bonus tracks that also appeared on their demo. They've got a strong hard sound and some really catchy songs like "Night Comes Down", "Reginald Denny" and the title track. Unfortunately some of the other songs aren't as impressive. (Perry)

WE ARE THE MODS VOL 2 BOOTLEG

No it is not an LP by Stevie Sharp and The Cleancuts. Instead it's vol 2 in the ongoing series of rare and demo tracks by some of the major mod acts. As with vol 1, vol 2 consist of a color cover full of photos of stylish scooters. The back is crammed with loads of newspaper clippings of mod mayhem. As one might expect in being a bootleg, some of the songs are not of excellent quality, but given the rarity of some tracks this may be the only place to find them. The LP includes various tracks from the likes of: The Jam, the Mods, Small World, Back to Zero, and The Directions just to name a few. To give an idea this LP uniqueness, the Mod's LP "Lost Touch" goes for about $45, and Small World records is also quite dear. An all around great package, hopefully we will see a vol 3 in the future. (Ray)

PAUL WELLER - WILD WOOD (GO!)

Perry picks "Oi! The New Breed" as his pick of this issue, while Justin selects the compilation, "Skinhead Revolt". And as one might guess "Wild Wood" is my pick for this issue and for 1993. Many people are having difficulty identifying with Weller's new material, but I believe in order to evaluate his work, we ought not compare and contrast his new material to his previous ventures. Yes his new work is different from The Jam and Style Council, but so is the man from the adolescent. This new release is even different from his '92 solo LP something that I thought was impossible to top, but as always Weller comes through. Not only is Wild Wood a musically sophisticated and eloquent album, at the same time lyrically the album seems to be a development into one man's soul search. Within the album we find a fusion between artist and his work, each moving to the same beat. More than being music, this is Weller. He has positivily outdone himself in creating one of the most spirtually inspirational albums that should be added to everyone's collection. But would one expect anything less? All one needs to do is become infected by the track "Shadow of the Sun" and you are on your way. Maybe with this album, the next time Weller appeares on the Tonight Show, Jay "fuck chin" Leno will get his name right! Weller's "ever changing mood" continues to challenge us, supplying fresh ideas to a culturally bland world. (Ray))

PIST 'N' BROKE

Pist 'N' Broke are a very promising Oi band from Ann Arbor and Detroit, Michigan. They play a pretty unique style of Oi made even more dsitinctive by having a saxophonist. They went down really well at the Atlanta S.O.A.P. fest and the United Front Oi/Ska Convention earlier this year. Their cassette EP on Sonic Aggressoin should establish them as a force to be reckoned with in the Oi scene worldwide. Their mamager, Chris, answered the questions along with Scotti, their singer. Interview by Perry.

1) Who are the members of Pist 'N' Broke and how long has the band been together?
The members of Pist 'N' Broke are: Scotti Lyons - vocals, Ben Mancell - guitar, Jon Hill - bass, Patrick Trainor - drums, and Gabe Heiss - sax. The band has been together for one year.

2) Have any of you been in any bands before?
Ben and Gabe played in a ska band called Etch-A-Sketch and they both currently play in a '77 punk band called Nadsat Nation.

3) You are the only Oi/Skin band in the Detroit area that's not racist or fascist. Do you have alot of support in your area? Do the right wingers ever cause you problems?
We don't have as much support in Detroit as we deserve. People don't take us serious as they should because they're all jealous. We get more support and respect outside Detroit.

4) Who are some of your influences and favorite bands?
Some of our influences are AC/DC, Stiff Little Fingers, Sham 69 and The Clash. Some other bands that we like are Another Man's Poison, Serious Drinking, The Bruisers and Cobra.

5) Can you tell us what some of your songs are about?
Our songs are basically about drinking and women.

6) What are your occupations besides the band?
Besides being in the band, we are Jacks-Of-All-Trades and Masters-Of-None.

7) You played both the Oi/Ska festival in Atlanta and the United Front "Convention" in D.C. What are your opinions on these concerts?
It's all a blur. We were told we were great.

8) How do you feel about the state of the skinhead movement in the U.S.?
Movement? What movement? All we can say is that it's probably not better or worse than anywhere else.

9) You are one of only a few U.S. Oi! bands who don't seem to be influenced by hardcore. What is your opinion of H.C.? Does it have a place in the skinhead movement?
Actually, our rythym section are totally into hardcore, but it really has no place in the skinhead movement. The bases of the skinhead cult were formed over 20 years ago, so who are we to say what it is except for stating true facts.

10) Are you into reading skinhead fanzines? If so, which are your favorites?
Our favorite fanzine is Carry No Banners. We'd also like a mention for Skinhead Times newspaper.

11) You've had an offer to play in Europe, what is the status on that?
We really don't know at this point.

12) You've just released a demo on Sonic Aggression, are you pleased with the results? Any more releases in the works?
We released a cassette (not a demo) which was professionally recorded for Sonic Aggression. We're pleased for it being our first time, but next time it will be better. There are no definite releases in the immediate future, but several plans.

13) Any merchandise for sale?
Our cassette is available from Sonic Aggression Records, 253 Low St. #263, Newburyport, MA, 01950, U.S.A. Those interested can also get our demo tape with bonus live tracks (12 songs total) for $6 U.S., available from: Pist 'N' Broke Mgt., 1559 Lillian (Upper), Windsor, Ontario, N8X4A9, Canada.

14) Anything else you'd like to say?
We'd like to thank everybody that's helped us out so far especially Jeff and Rick of The Bruisers, Mark of The Anti-Heroes, Perry Hardy, Allie Sausmer, and Sir Arthur Guinness. Anyone wanting to write to the band (especially nice birds) ganget a hold of us at the address in the above answer or the following: Pist 'N' Broke, c/o Scotti Lyons, 655 Alexandrine, Detroit, Michigan, 48201, U.S.A. Cheers. Pist 'N' Broke - 1993. Look out for up-coming Detroit area Oi! band, The Lager Lads, in '94, some good friends of ours.

WANTED PUNK & OI! BANDS
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Any bands interested in appearing on forthcoming Punk & Oi! CD compilations please send:

a) Demos tapes & Recordings
b) Photos of the band
c) Complete band info/Biography
d) Complete address
e) Telephone number and fax number (if you have)
f) Band logo
and we will soon contact you.

All the bands featured will receive free copies of the CD.

We need bands that pay more attention into music than politics, so all political bands don't even write to us.

For Further details write to:

BRONCO BULLFROG PROMOTIONS
c/o Mark M. Brown
Apartado de Correos 1474
07800 IBIZA (BALEARES)
SPAIN

Also wanted people who can help with artwork, and drawrings/designs for the front cover and sleeve.

INTENSIFIED

I met Steve and Shaun from INTENSIFIED at what was supposed to be a Derrick Morgan gig at the Robey while visiting England. I bought a copy of their single "Marguerita" and 30 seconds into the first side I thought this was the best ska record of the year. I wanted to find out more about them so I dropped Steve a line and asked a few questions.

1) Can you tell us who's in the band and give us a brief band history?
We formed in late '90 as an 8 piece. Our first gig was that X-mas with the Allsorts, on tour from Australia. During '91 we recorded 2 demos, the first 'Tense' in February (5 tracks) and the second in September ('Carnival' - 4 tracks). We also played about 40 gigs. In '92 we played about 25 gigs. The line-up now includes 4 horns. In August we recorded 2 tracks for our single. Bands we've played with include Too Hot, Neumatics, Selector, Laurel Aitken, Bakery's, Hot Knives, Tighten Up, Skanxsters, Trojans, Rico's Band, Appollo 7, Skaville Train, Loonee Tunes, 100 Men, Cosmics, Nutty Boys, and both Lee Thompson and Rico have joined us on stage. Current line-up is Paul, Chas and Shaun - vocals, Steve - guitar, Phil - keyboards, Terry - drums, Chris - bass, Tom & Pete - tenor sax, Doug - trumpet, and 3 members who turn up when they can: Karl - alto sax, A.J. - trombone, and Lee - percussion.

2) Who are your influences and favorite artists?
So many to mention, and we all have certain other likes & dislikes, but we are drawing most of our influence from sixties ska and reggae. Early on we tried to mix up all the styles but it was too muddled, sort of Madness / Hot Knives mix. The Cosmics really helped us to mature our sound. We feel really comfortable with the original style. My personal favorites include Slim Smith, Skatalites, Derrick Morgan, Upsetters, Techniques, Pat Kelly, etc. etc. Hepcat are one of my fave modern bands at the moment.

3) Have any of your members been in any other bands?
Yes, Tom played in Soul Limbo, Doug in Soul Foundation (both local soul cover bands), Terry and me in Betrayed (Oi!), Chris in hardcore band Seep, Terry plays in the punk band Dog Ugly, Karl has played in loads of bands including Jazz, indie (on bass), and now with A.J. in soul / dance band Strung Out, and Lee plays in various skiffle bands.

4) Have you ever played any of the ska festivals at the Sir George Robey?
Yes, we played at an excellent one with Selector, Rico, and Laurel Aitken. It was #6, I think, It was packed, and the night before and after were also brilliant with bands such as Special Beat, Trojans and Maroon Town well on form! It was June '92.

5) There seems to be some controversy about The Robey's policy, they seem to advertise alot of performers that don't turn up to play. How do you feel about this?
Pissed off & ripped off!! On a couple of occasion, I even phoned before I left to confirm who's playing, yet when I got there (it's a good hour and a half to two hours) it's all lies! In fact Perry, I do believe we met when Derrick Morgan was supposedly playing. It's just such a shame; it's a shit-hole and people travel from all over the world to get let down and that's killing off morale in the scene.

6) What is the ska scene like in the U.K. nowadays? Are there any up and coming bands you feel are worth mentioning?
Well, it seems really quiet and everybody's full of apathy, yet me and a mate sat down the other day and came up with over 40 U.K. ska bands! I thought there were only a handful left, but that's more than in '89. It is healthy; it still draws in good mixed audiences, bands are releasing their own records, people are trying hard to get gigs going. There's some excellent bands around - Rico's Band, Cosmics, 100 Men & Marron Town are firing away in the top league. Too Hot and Bakery's, amongst others, are reaching for the top. I've also heard good things of the Skarabs and Eskargot.

7) What are you hobbies / jobs besides the band?
Hobbies? Football, collecting records, drinking, etc. Jobs include a plumber, a fire-man, a rail worker, a sailor(!), a surveyor, a couple of unemployed and a couple of students!

8) I understand that Arthur Kay played with you guys on a few occasions. What is your relationship like with him?
Arthur practiced with us getting ready for a couple of gigs. Tom played sax on his last album (not yet released!) called 'In Tents'. It's great, early Arthur Kay sounding ska. Anyway, we wanted him to come on as a guest so we learned a few of his oldies like 'Ska Wars', 'Watching The Rich Kids', 'Play My Record', plus some newer stuff like 'George Marshall'. He lives just up the coast, he's a real decent up-front bloke full of talent, and stories too! Hopefully, we'll do something again, but he's busy in a blues band at the moment.

9) How many members of Intensified are skinheads? What is the state of the skinhead movement in Britain today?
3 at the moment. The skin scene in the U.K. seems fairly good, but it's hard to tell. We had a good scene in Kent, but petty differences and lack of effort means a few aren't seen out anymore, or cant' be bothered. Yet when you read Skinhead Times you see so much happening, and you know if everyone would get off their arses it would be excellent! There's still a few good pockets of skins we meet up with, and good to see smartness and love of reggae still a priority and growing.

10) You've recently released a single, are you pleased with the outcome? Has it been well received?
Yeh, I'm real chuffed with it, we all are. I financed a loan, designed a cover, etc. So it's sort of a momento! The songs are well received too, which is nice. I love all sorts of ska: 2 tone, Bosstones, Bim. Fast, slow, etc., but my real love is the original stuff, and with the 'Swing Easy' label I hope to release more stuff in that mould.

11) What are you future plans?
We are doing some new recordings now; one track is going on the 'Skinhead Times' single, the other might be gathered for an album. If we can't afford that, we'll release another single on 'Swing Easy'. We're doing a few gigs, including a couple in Belgium in December, and a couple in London soon.

12) Any band merchandise for sale?
The single, 'Marguerita' is available for 3 British pounds. Also, if anyone wants a copy of 'Carnival' the old demo, I've just dug up about 20 copies lingering in my room (2 pounds). T-shirts new for the winter (!!) in a couple of weeks.

13) Any last words?
Thanks for the interview, good luck with the zine. Read all about it, read all about it, it's a new sensation, skinhead reggae invasion, so run tell your friends to gather round, Intensified here to wake the town! Boss, you're in the Spirit of '69. Steve H.

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Ben Sherman FRED PERRY

OXBLOOD are an Oi band that have been getting alot of attention lately. With their debut EP out now and some compilations appearances in the works they are rising throught the ranks of the American Oi scene. Perry wanted to see what's up with them and here's what they have to say. Singer Frank answered the questions.

1) Would you give us a brief history of the band?
Oxblood was started at the beginning of 1992. Our demo was put out September of that year. We just got our debut 7" called "Under the Boot", released in August on Headache Records. We're on the upcoming SPE comp "Only Spirit in Unity" and should be on "U.S. of Oi! Vol.II". Hopefully should be on a split 7" with The Templars soon, on The Steve Priest Fan Club label. We've played both Oi! fests in D.C. and Boston a couple of times, but most of our gigs are in NYC and NJ.

2) You played the United Front Convention in D.C. What are your opinions on that event?
The U.F. Convention in D.C. was fun. We all had a great time that weekend, and had a really good response from everyone when we played. Would definitely do it again.

3) Who are your influences and favorite bands?
We are influenced by alot of early 80's street punk, from Criminal Class to Major Accident, there are so many great bands we like. I'm also into the psychobilly scene alot.

4) Years ago skinheads in NYC were mostly associated with the Hardcore scene. How do you feel about Hardcore and does it still have alot of influence on NYC skins?
Years ago NYC skins were definitely into the hardcore scene, weren't really any Oi! bands about then. This is the 90's and things have changed. Skins still go to hardcore shows, but it mainly appeals to the baggy pants-club-homeboy crowd. I can't speak for every skin, but from what I see most skins are mainly into Oi! and Ska and stick to that scene. As for myself, I was never really into hardcore, except for some of the old classic stuff.

5) You've just released your first record on the Headache label. Are you pleased with the result?
We are pleased with the result of our 7" on Headache, from what I hear it's doing pretty good all over. Armen is a good guy to work with, and gives a shit about the scene. I think he is going to do a 2nd pressing of the EP soon, maybe as you read this. So if anyone out there didn't get it, you'll get another chance.

6) The NY /NJ area has the biggest concentration of skinheads in the US. Why do you think the scene is so large there? Do the skins generally get along or are there alot of problems between crews?
One of the reasons the scene is pretty big areound the NY-NJ area is I guess because there are quite a few Oi! and Punk bands around which results in alot of shows happening. I don't see any problems between skins in NYC and NJ. We all go to shows and parties together, there isn't any trouble at all. Everyone knows everyone.

7) Have you received much fanzine coverage up until now?
We have done quite a few interviews for zines in the US and overseas. Keep 'em comin'.

8) Are there alot of skinhead girls in the NYC scene?
I suppose it's like everywhere else, there are always more skin guys than girls unfortunately. Of course every guy talks macho shit, but I don't see any problem with sexism within the scene.

9) What are your jobs & hobbies besides the band?
I work as a printer, camera man and binder in a small copy shop in Chelsea Manhattan. My main hobby which takes up all my free time is called a wife by the name of Erika. Paul goes to school for art and design and Mac is unemployed at the time. Who knows what they do on their free time. We all basically drink and crank Oi! and hang out. What else is there to do?

10) Your band seems to be into Clockwork Orange imagery. What is it about that movie that you find appealing?
I.m really the only one into the Clockwork Orange imagery, as you call it. I've liked the movie since I was a kid. Any bootboy can relate to the movie or look, and we've all done our share of dirty deeds like Alex and his droogs.

11) How are the skinheads perceived by the police, media and general public in yout area?
Skinheads are perceived by the police, media and public, the same everywhere. Here it's no different, but they can all fuck off 'cause we won't give in.

12) An band merchandise for sale?
At the time we only got our record for sale. Hopefully soon we'll make some more T-shirts and maybe some button badges. We shall see.

13) Future plans?
Future plans, like I said earlier are a split 7" with The Templars and some tracks on various comps. Would like to get out and play around the rest of the US, if you can help drop a line.

14) Any last words?
Last words, yeah look out for Oxblood and buy our 7", if you already got it, buy another one. Cheers to Perry and the rest involved with Carry No Banners. If you want to get in touch with Oxblood, here's how. Oi! Oi!

Frank Bruno
48 Carlton Ave.
Jersey City, NJ
07307

Dieter McCalla
8710 51st Ave. #5H
Elmhurst, NJ
11373

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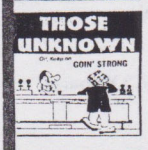

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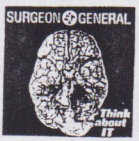

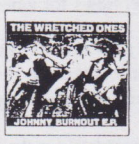

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CONDEMNED 84

CONDEMNED 84 are a band who need no introduction. If you haven't heard of this band you must have shaved your head yesterday. They have been the subject of controversy regarding their political stance and their signing to Rock 0 Rama only added fuel to the fire. Hopefully this interview will clear up some of the questions. Perry conducted the interview with C-84's singer Kev in November. Here's the result.

1) What is your present line up? For those who don't already know can you give us a brief band history?
Current line up - Gunk-bass, Baysey-guitarist, Wayne-drums and Kev-vocals. Formed in 1981 as "Criminal Tenedencies" played 1 gig and split. Reformed as Condemned in 1983 became Condemned 84 in 1984. Played 90 gigs taking in the following countries- USA, Belgium, France, Holland, and Britain. We've had about 9 different line ups.

2) When you signed to Rock O Rama it was seen by some as an indication of a more militant political stance. We've even heard rumours that you aligned yourselves with Blood & Honour. Is there any truth to this and where does C-84 stand politically?
We signed to Rock O rama for one LP only. We don't have a 3 year contract like the rest of the bands. We have a separate contract on each recording. We can go elsewhere anytime. It's nothing to do with taking a political stance as the band as a whole have never been political, although some members have been. We went with ROR as we regard them as "the skinhead record company" plus distribution for Europe is good. Besides there weren't any other labels in the UK taking oi/skin bands. As to aligning ourselves to B&H, I don't think they'd accept us under their wing so to speak as we ain't politically lyrical enough for them. But we do get right wing skinheads at gigs; not left. C-84 are a patriotic oi band and always have been. Besides the money's good on ROR.

3) Oi seems to be on the go again in the UK with quite a few new bands about. What are your views on the current state of the movement?
A few new bands about but the following for oi is definately on the decline, so gigs are poorly attended.

4) Are you pleased with your latest release "Storming to Power"? Why did it take so long?
Yes, we liked the sound on the latest LP; it's powerful. There was a 6 month wait after we recorded it for a release date, as there is a delay on all ROR releases.

5) Why did you use a drawing of a Viking ship for the cover? Any political connotations?
We used that cover purely for the storm effect on the water and sky, the viking ship for patriotism. No political connotations.

6) You did a brief tour of the US in the late 80's, how did it go and would you like to play over here again?
We played a few dates in the US. There was trouble at some gigs, but attendences were really good. As to playing over there again I don't know as all band members have families to consider.

7) What are your occupations besides the band?
Gunk-printer, Kev-fiber optic operative, Wayne-unemployed, Baysey-unemployed.

8) You have been very critical of SHARP but your first record appeared on Oi! Records, run by UK SHARP organizer Roddy Moreno. How was your relationship with Roddy and his label?
We got on ok with Roddy, when we released "Battle Scared" but there was no SHARP UK then. He always paid the bands, unlike some.

9) When Cliff and Mark left C-84 to move to Atlanta, waas there any discussion about moving the band to the states?
We considered it but didn't go for it!

10) Of all the records you've released which one is your personal favorite?
Oi! Ain't Dead EP.

11) Have you played any gigs with the new line up? If so, how did they go?
No gigs played with the latest line up.

12) What are your opinions of ska music and skins who follow the Spirit of 69?
Personally I don't like ska much; as to skins who follow the spirit of 69, keep drinking it!

13) Any band merchandise for sale?
We have CDs, records, posters, and t-shirts available from our P.O. Box.

14) What does C-84 have planned for the future?
We're currently practicing hard for gigs and working on nre songs.

15) Any last words?
Thanks to all U.S. skins who have written and supported us and "Keep the Faith".

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